

# Revelation Step By Step 6

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, to the final Return of Christ

So far we have seen the “Beast” claim to be God in the Temple of God, Matthew 24:15, the Church in Jerusalem, which has been carrying out God’s Command in Jeremiah 31:6-7, to the **half way point through Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week**, Daniel 9:27. False Christs, world war, famine, and pestilence, the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse, have already ridden, and the Beast has begun persecuting God’s people in Jerusalem at the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal, Daniel 11:35, ‘**And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.**’

We have seen from Matthew 24:29-30 that **the First Resurrection takes place at the Heavenly Signs of the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal**, immediately after the ‘**Tribulation of those days**’, which culminate with the “abomination of desolation, v 15 and Daniel 9:27, so we know that the first 6 Seals last 3½ years. The second half of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, **from now on, is the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, the Great Tribulation**, and so it too will last for 3½ years. The Earth is already in absolute chaos, but many people alive then expect God’s punishment to get even worse, because they remember the First Angel’s graphic warning, and they have neglected to repent, so, having seen the resurrection, they say, Revelation 6:17, ‘**For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?**’

The Beast, having lost *one* of his armies sent to capture the Saints fleeing from Jerusalem, turns in anger and frustration to attack God’s people still in the US and UK, under his control now, after God brings ‘Israel’ down, Revelation 12:17, ‘**Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**’

Isaiah 10:5-6, ‘**Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.**’

Having taken over the collapsed US, and UK, it is quite easy for him to find and kill the true Christians in their captivity, but those in his own domain in Europe prove more difficult to find. Matthew 10:23, ‘**When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**’

Many people worldwide, remembering the First Angel’s dramatic message, and having seen the Sea of Glass, God’s throne, Christ’s arrival, the resurrection, and now

hearing the message of the Two Witnesses, repent during the Great Tribulation. We read of them in Revelation 7. They look for a minister to baptise them, but they will not find one. Amos 8:11, ‘**“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.”**’ They are gone – either on the Sea of Glass, killed, or in Petra. But these newly repentant *are* sealed with the Holy Spirit, so we can assume they are baptised by an Angel, or maybe even by one of God’s new family, sent by God to seal the repentant.

Many, it seems, make the mistake of believing these new Revelation 7 Christians will be in the First Resurrection. They are not, for it occurred in the *previous* chapter at the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal, and these repent only in the Great Tribulation, the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, Revelation 3:10, ‘**Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.**’ And **Revelation 7:14**, ‘**I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**’ Thus we see the future tense used in verses 15-17, with words matching those in Revelation 21, after the *Second* Resurrection, when they gain *their* reward, indicating that their late repentance cost them their lives!

In Revelation 8 we are told that the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal consists of 7 Trumpets, each trumpet a plague poured out upon the earth. These Trumpets continue through chapter 9 and are self-explanatory, except the 5<sup>th</sup> Angel’s Trump, which releases demons from the bottomless pit, which some believe may be deep in the Bermuda Triangle.

Here though, with the 6<sup>th</sup> Trump we encounter what seems to be an insolvable problem. When we look at the trumpet plagues which comprise the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, we find 7 Trumpets, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet is comprised of 7 last Plagues, Revelation 15:1, ‘**I saw in heaven another great and marvellous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues--last, because with them God's wrath is completed.**’

Yet, when we examine them it seems like they are repeated, not identical, but similar to the Trumpets. And, for example, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Trump we are even given a specific time for *its* starting point, Revelation 9:15, ‘**So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind,**’ but they do seem chronologically separate, because they are chapters apart. The 6<sup>th</sup> of the 7 last plagues, for example, seems to repeat the 6<sup>th</sup> Trump, in that **both** are about armies from the East, and the river Euphrates being prepared so that they can cross, in their plan to invade the West.

We know that such an event takes place at the End-Time, when the Beast reacts to that news, Daniel 11:44, ‘**But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many,**’ but, obviously this only happens *once*, in the lead up to Armageddon!

So, what we have is a *blurring together* of slightly changing events over a period of time, according to God's determination, in response to the evil which is taking place at that point, just before and after Jesus Christ Returns from Heaven with His Bride.

Chapter 10 is an inset chapter in the progress, explaining that the Apostle John was not allowed to describe the horrors of each of the trumpets in detail, cf. Revelation 6:1. Verse 7 informs us that at the sound of the 7th trumpet the 'Mystery' of God's Plan will be accomplished, as Christ's reign in the Kingdom of God is then begun. Now there will be "no more delay", verse 6, for when the 7<sup>th</sup> Angel sounds, Jesus Christ and His Bride return, to establish His Kingdom here on earth.

But we are getting head of ourselves. What is this little book? Revelation 10:9, 'So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."' It is the same message you are reading here, a mingled message of good and evil, judgement and glory for the wicked and the righteous respectively, but it also expresses the regret and joy that this message brings to every true servant who must be the mouthpiece of God's wrath, verse 10, 'And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.' This signifies that the prophecies are not going to be easy or pleasant to deliver, for the Apostle John or God's true ministers.

Coming to chapter 11, we first find John given responsibility to make judgements about some of God's people, apparently those in Jerusalem. He is to differentiate between those who worship within the "inner and outer courts" of God's Church. If we are to take this as symbolically referring to believers, then there must be some of the faithful who participated in the broadcast to "Israel", but failed to flee before the Beast arrived, cf. Matthew 24:16. Some of these are contrasted with those in the outer court, and we can only assume that *they* may be those who were corrupted by the Beast and ended up worshipping him, Daniel 11:32, 'He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.' Thus *they* are not worthy of God's protection and are 'trampled underfoot' by the Beast's army.

Now we come to the Two Witnesses. Our God is a God of love, and in this time of His great punishment for a wicked world, even as He previously gave instructions in Jeremiah 31 that His people Israel **should be given hope in order to survive**, so now **His love and concern** is to be continued by the Two Witnesses, for the final 3½ years, extending the opportunity to repent. This is the very character of our God, which we are to emulate. That is why it is so sad that God is having to delay the End Time events until His people realise their responsibility **to display the same selfless love** and begin to *prepare for* that witness from Jerusalem! Cf. Matthew 24:12.

In Zechariah 4 the two olive trees feed their oil into the 7 branched candlestick, which is believed to pre-figure Israel with its witness and testimony role restored, on either side of which they stand, Zechariah 4:3, 'And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.' Verse 14 says, 'Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth." These "Sons of oil" *there*, represent Zerubbabel, the kingly Governor, and Joshua, the soiled high Priest.

Though some believe the Two Witnesses to be Jews, we know that the Jews disqualified themselves as God's servants, and they may instead be equivalently an ex-Israel government leader and an eminent Church leader. It seems neither made it into the First Resurrection, but an [ex?] Israel government leader would be extremely valuable during the Church's sacrificial witness from Jerusalem, and an eminent Church leader, though soiled like many who participated in hierarchical rule, must have learned from his error, repented and still be counted capable of carrying forward the same message of encouragement and warning which the Church had published earlier from Jerusalem, during the first 3½ years.

The two Witnesses now begin their miraculous work, warning all to repent, or face increasing punishment from God, Revelation 11:5-6, 'And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.' The days of their work are 1260 days, one month less than 3½ years, if, as would be normal, there is one intercalated year during that period of time, after which they are killed, but are gathered into Heaven, for that one month. That could account for Daniel 12:11, 'And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and **ninety** days,' [until Christ's final return].

That, however would mean a gap of one month at the end of the time the Beast's army tramples Jerusalem, for it will need to fulfil Daniel 11:44 and move into position for the battle of Armageddon, 'But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.' Revelation 11:2, 'but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and **they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.**'

This must be speculation, but it fits in with the fact that the few remnant Jews left in Jerusalem have time to organise to fight as the battle comes to Jerusalem, Zechariah 12:8-9, 14:14, 'On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them. And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.....**And Judah also**

**shall fight at Jerusalem;** and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.’ This would hardly be possible if the Beast’s army was still dominant in Jerusalem and the world’s attention was still on the killing of the Two Witnesses, and their resurrection at that time!

As the Two Witnesses ascend to Heaven, Jerusalem is struck by a great earthquake in which thousands die, leading the survivors to thank and praise God for their preservation. Revelation 11:14, ‘**The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.**’ This does seem to indicate a gap [of one month?] before the next verse, ‘**Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”**’

This is the famous verse still associated by many with the First Resurrection, but of course we have seen that this occurred at the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal, much earlier, *before* the start of the Great Tribulation. This is not the “Last Trump” of the resurrection, as we have proved previously, which is blown by God Himself, not an Angel, as is the case here. In actuality it is the *return* of Christ and His Bride with His Armies, from Heaven, the very beginning of His reign! Verse 17, ‘**saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.**’

The next verse mentions this is “**the time of the dead**”, but Vine’s dictionary tells us that it is also used for: “(b) the actual spiritual condition of unsaved men, Matt. 8:22; John 5:25” etc. And also, the time when God’s servants the prophets, the saints, and those that fear God’s name should be given their reward, and destroy them who defile the earth. Revelation 22:12, “**And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**”

The final verse in Revelation 11 speaks of the temple of God being seen in Heaven, lightnings, voices, thunderings, another earthquake and great hail, as Christ and His armies arrive.

*Just as we have seen a parenthesis in the progress of events, in chapter 7, before the introduction of the Seven Trumpets, and a second parenthesis in chapter 10 before the Two Witnesses and the 7<sup>th</sup> Trump, we find a third parenthesis in chapters 12-14, before the seven vials are poured out upon the earth, our next subject.*

*While we can only speculate about some of these details, the basic structure of the main events is evidenced by the scriptures in Daniel, Matthew 24, Revelation 6 and Revelation 14. You must put all these together as I have aimed to do, and come to your own conclusion.*

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